RAJYA SABHA

Friday, The 23rd July, 2004/1, Sravana, 1926 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 261, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad...*(Interruption)*... Shri B.J. Panda...*(Interruptions)*... रिकार्ड में नहीं जायेगा। ...(व्यवधान)....लिखा नहीं जायेगा। ...(व्यवधान)....आप बैठ जाइये ...(व्यवधान).... आप बैठ जाइये। ...(व्यवधान)....Q.No.*262..(Interruptions)...Q.No.*263...*(Interruptions)*...ShriManoj Bhattacharya.

Palm oil prices

*263. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA. Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the costs of purchase and sale price of imported palm oil;

(b) the cost of refining imported crude palm oil;

(c) whether sale of indigenous palm oil is affected by indiscriminate pricing and customs duty; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to check fall of indigenous refined palm oil prices during kharif sowing season?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARD PAWAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The average monthly domestic price of Crude Palm Oil varied between Rs. 36,000/- and Rs. 42,000/- per MT in the last six months.

(b) The cost of refining imported crude palm oil is Rs. 1850/- per MT as assessed by the Tariff Commission.

(c) and (d) As the indigenous palm oil constitutes only 1% of the total palm oil used in the country, its price depends mainly upon the demand and supply in both domestic and international market. Recently, in order to harmonise the interests of farmers, consumers and processors, the custom duty on refined palm oil/RBD palmolein has been raised from 70% "to 75% w.e.f. 9.7.2004.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Sir, my first supplementary is, whether..... *(Interruptions)*... The previous Government. *(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: सदन की कार्यवाही 12 बजे तक स्थगित की जाती है ।

The House then adjourned at three minutes past eleven of the clock

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

AIDS bomb

*261. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US health authorities and CIA have warned India that it is a fast ticking AIDS bomb which would wreak havoc and weaken the economy;

(b) whether India is now the most AIDS infected country in Asia; and

(c) if so, the status of this disease in our country and the action plan to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The report of the National Intelligence Council (NIC) in USA states that the number of people living with HIV/AIDS will grow significantly by the end of the decade and approximately 20-25 million Indians are likely to be infected (with HIV) by 2010.

The National AIDS Control Organization, Government of India conducts